

## The licensing process for growing marijuana is extensive and expensive.

### ■ MARIJUANA

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community of keeping marijuana money local instead of having it slip into the hands of illegal growers.

Although rumor has it that many of the owners behind the fences are not local, and although big companies like Futureland and Dicot Partners *are* buying land here, many marijuana growers are local farmers who joined the gold rush. Their farms have names like Loved Buds, Ankura, Moon Shine Gardens, Summit Cannabis.

**Vincent and Kate Deschamps, of 54 Green Acres,** didn't move to southern Oregon two and a half years ago to grow pot but to create an organic farm. They bought a "gorgeous property, with 1882 water rights," that had been an organic fruit and vegetable farm. "But," Vincent needlessly points out, "you don't make money with a small organic farm," so they turned to medical marijuana. Their twelve plants engendered 45 pounds of marijuana and \$50,000. Now licensed growers of recreational marijuana, they tend 150 plants. "Twelve is a hobby," Vincent says. "This is a business."

Other farmers, like Cedar Grey of Siskiyou Sungrown Farm, started years ago with medical marijuana before expanding into "adult use marijuana," a term he prefers to "recreational" because "recreational" excludes medicinal use—a disservice to the plant," he says. He describes his spread as "a beautiful field with 1,000 plants growing in rows, like a vineyard."

Cedar has modeled his agriculture on vineyards and makes many analogies

between the two crops. Like grapes, marijuana is susceptible to mold and mildew in the fall. The Applegate's long dry summers make it ideal for marijuana, as for grapes.

Like grapes, marijuana has a terroir. Cedar noted that wines from watersheds in Napa Valley with individual appellations didn't have the same cachet as those with an appellation from Napa, in spite of minor differences in terroir. Therefore, instead of developing marijuana appellations for each watershed—"from Humbug," "from the Applegate," "from Williams"—he prefers a "Rogue Valley" appellation.

**Marijuana is like wine,** too, in that there is a connoisseurship about its taste and hundreds of names for its varieties. Will Strawberry Cough, Big Buddha Cheese, Black Cherry Soda, Golden Goat, and Triple Diesel some day be as commonly known as gewürztraminer, zinfandel, merlot, and pinot noir?

"I love growing marijuana," Cedar says and talks with wide knowledge about the plant, infusing conversation with terms like "terpenes" (hydrocarbons found in the essential oils of plants) and the "entourage effect" (the effect of the combination of terpenes and cannabinoids in individual varieties), which, he says, "is the cutting edge of cannabis science." He makes distinctions between tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which induces the high, and cannabidiol (CBD), the active (but not psychoactive) ingredient that gives the plant its medicinal value. Most of the plants that grow well in the Applegate, Cedar says, are CBD rich.



Siskiyou Sungrown Farm owned by Cedar Grey. Marijuana cultivation looks not so different from viticulture.

The licensing process for growing recreational marijuana is extensive and expensive. Vincent points out that having to build infrastructure, buy equipment, etc., means "you risk a lot of money before being approved." Mark Pettinger, marijuana spokesperson for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), explains that the process includes a criminal background check, a land-use compatibility statement signed by the county Planning Department, compliance with security requirements, and a training course in Cannabis Tracking System, a seed-to-product tracking to keep consumer products from falling into the illegal market. The crop must be obscured from public view or access, and other restrictions might be imposed by the county.

Despite this rigorous process, Vincent Deschamps says he "has great things to say about OLCC," calling



Vincent Deschamps, owner of 54 Green Acres, far from dwarfish himself, shows off one of the giants on his farm.

them "fair" and recognizing that they have a challenging job in making sure that nothing illegal is going on behind those fences.

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## Butterfly project at Cantrall Buckley Park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The proposal for grant funds for a monarch waystation and educational signage at Cantrall Buckley Park is in process. In the fall, a small area will be planted with native milkweed and flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen for a variety of pollinators.

Janis Mohr-Tipton is putting together a display of pollinators and

monarch butterflies to be shown through September at Ruch Library. Information will be available to the public on types of flowering native plants to use for pollinators and their flowering months. There will be some native milkweed specimens and other educational information. The library also has great resources for all ages on this subject.

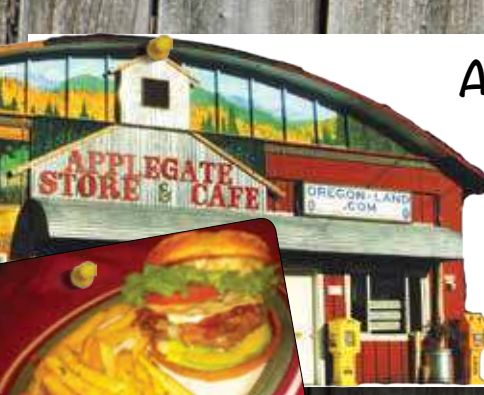


Monarch butterfly photo by Linda Kappen

**On Saturday, September 24, 2016, from 2 to 3:30 pm,** the Friends of Ruch Library will hold a program featuring Tom Landis, a retired nursery specialist with the US Forest Service, who will speak about the extent and causes of the monarch butterfly's decline and give an overview of what folks can do to

create pollinator habitat. Linda Kappen, representing Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates, will talk about tagging and tracking the monarch's migratory routes.

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Applegate Valley Garden Club  
Friends of Ruch Library



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